

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 147.76, the Board of Behavioral Science hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 31, “Licensure of Marital and Family Therapists and Mental Health Counselors,” Iowa Administrative Code.

These proposed amendments revise the examination requirements for temporary licensure to make them consistent with the Iowa Code, define the requirements for the counseling theories content area and the supervised counseling practicum content area for applicants who entered programs of study prior to July 1, 2012, and define requirements for licensure by endorsement for an applicant who has been licensed at the independent level in another state for at least five years.

Any interested person may make written comments on the proposed amendments no later than August 12, 2014, addressed to Judy Manning, Professional Licensure Division, Department of Public Health, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075; e-mail judith.manning@idph.iowa.gov.

A public hearing will be held August 12, 2014, from 8 to 8:30 a.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Conference Room 526, Lucas State Office Building, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. At the hearing, persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the proposed amendments.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 147.3, 147.10, 147.55, 154D.2, and 154D.7.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 31.2(5) as follows:

31.2(5) The candidate for permanent licensure shall have the examination score sent directly from the testing service to the board. ~~If the~~ The candidate for temporary licensure has not completed the examination prior to issuance of a temporary license, the candidate must successfully complete the examination before the temporary license ~~expires~~ is issued.

ITEM 2. Amend subparagraph **31.6(2)“a”(1)** as follows:

(1) Counseling theories. Studies that provide an understanding of counseling theories, utilize personal and environmental data in the mental health counseling process, and investigate procedures that are appropriate to various counseling theories and specific settings.

ITEM 3. Amend subparagraph **31.6(2)“a”(2)** as follows:

(2) Supervised counseling practicum. A graduate-level clinical supervised counseling practicum in a mental health setting in which students must complete supervised practicum experiences that total a minimum of 100 clock hours over a minimum ten-week academic term. The practicum provides for the development of counseling skills under supervision. The student’s practicum includes all of the following:

1. At least 40 hours of direct service with actual clients that contributes to the development of counseling skills;

2. Weekly interaction with an average of 1 hour per week of individual or triadic supervision throughout the practicum by a program faculty member, a student supervisor, or a site supervisor who is working in biweekly consultation with a program faculty member in accordance with the supervision contract;

3. An average of 1½ hours per week of group supervision that is provided on a regular schedule throughout the practicum by a program faculty member or a student supervisor; and

4. Evaluation of the student's counseling performance throughout the practicum, including documentation of a formal evaluation after the student completes the practicum.

ITEM 4. Amend rule 645—31.8(154D) as follows:

645—31.8(154D) Licensure by endorsement. An applicant who has been a licensed marriage and family therapist or mental health counselor under the laws of another jurisdiction may file an application for licensure by endorsement with the board office.

31.8(1) The board may receive by endorsement any applicant from the District of Columbia or another state, territory, province or foreign country who:

~~1. a.~~ Submits to the board a completed application;

~~2. b.~~ Pays the licensure fee;

~~3. c.~~ Shows evidence of licensure requirements that are similar to those required in Iowa;

~~4. d.~~ Provides official transcripts sent directly from the school to the board verifying completion of a master's degree of 45 hours or equivalent if the applicant entered a program of study prior to July 1, 2010, or verifying completion of a master's degree of 60 hours or equivalent if the applicant entered a program of study on or after July 1, 2010, or the appropriate doctoral degree. After March 31, 2009, graduates from a non-CACREP-accredited mental health counselor program or a non-COAMFTE-accredited marital and family therapy program shall provide an equivalency evaluation of their educational credentials by the Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. (CCE), Web site <http://cce-global.org>. The professional curriculum must be equivalent to that stated in these rules. Applicants shall bear the expense of the curriculum evaluation;

~~5. e.~~ Supplies satisfactory evidence of the candidate's qualifications in writing on the prescribed forms by the candidate's supervisors. If verification of clinical experience is not available, the board may consider submission of documentation from the state in which the applicant is currently licensed or equivalent documentation of supervision; and

~~6. f.~~ Provides verification(s) of license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant has been licensed, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification direct from the jurisdiction's board office if the verification provides:

~~• (1)~~ Licensee's name;

~~• (2)~~ Date of initial licensure;

~~• (3)~~ Current licensure status; and

~~• (4)~~ Any disciplinary action taken against the licensee; and

~~g.~~ Has the examination score sent directly from the testing service to the board.

31.8(2) In lieu of meeting the requirements of paragraphs 31.8(1) "d" and "e," applicants who meet the qualifications below may instead submit documentation demonstrating how each of the qualifications below is satisfied:

a. The applicant has been licensed as a mental health counselor or a marital and family therapist in another state for at least five years at the independent level (independent level means the highest level of licensure in the field offered by the particular state);

b. The applicant has been practicing under the independent license in a clinical mental health or marital and family therapy counseling setting for at least five years;

c. The applicant possesses a master's degree or higher in mental health counseling or marital and family therapy; and

d. The applicant does not have any past or pending disciplinary action from any state licensing boards related to any mental health counseling or marital and family therapy license currently or previously held by the applicant.